

### **REMARKS**

This Amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR 41.50(b)(1) in response to a new ground of rejection stated in the DECISION ON APPEAL dated December 31, 2007.

The new ground of rejection was applied to claims 30 and 31 of the present application. These claims are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,111,599 issued to Nance in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,993,902 issued to Heid.

By this Amendment, Appellant cancels claims 30 and 31. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that the new ground of rejection is now moot and all claims pending in the application, claims 1-29, stand without rejection and are in condition for allowance.

For this reason, Appellant respectfully requests the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences to favorably conclude the appeal, reopen prosecution of the application pursuant to 37 CFR 41.50(b)(1), and remand the application to the Examiner.

In view of the above remarks and cancellation of claims 30 and 31, Appellant respectfully submits that all claim rejections have been overcome and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, a favorable action on the merits is therefore requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment for entering this Amendment to our deposit account no. 08-3040.

Respectfully submitted,  
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